

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Utah State Office
324 South State, Suite 301
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111-2303

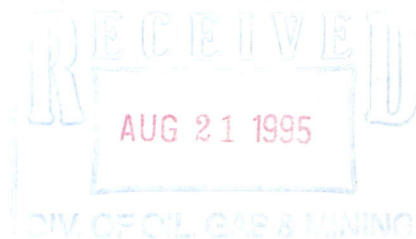
M/017/001

IN REPLY REFER TO:

3809/6840
(UT-921/UT-932)

AUG 17 1995

Tony Gallegos
Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining
355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203



Dear Mr. Gallegos:

Thank you for calling regarding the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) bat inventory policy as it pertains to closure of mine openings. BLM policy is set forth in Washington Office (WO) Instruction Memorandum (IM) No. 93-304. A copy of this policy was delivered to your office in July of this year. The stated policy is that all abandoned mines on BLM-administered public lands, prior to their closure, will be evaluated/investigated to determine if they are of value to sensitive wildlife, especially bats. Since this site is on BLM-administered lands, a special status plant and animal species clearance would be required. The IM further notes that, "...Each State Director should ensure that steps are taken to prevent the unnecessary destruction of bats and bat habitat. . . Abandoned mine closure on the public lands must be evaluated to determine if the habitat of any species listed as threatened or endangered will be affected. . ."

However, the IM does not provide specific details on how these evaluations or investigations are to be accomplished. Utah BLM is initiating a study to determine proper inventory procedures. Our intention is to coordinate this effort with various agencies including the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining to develop the best policy. Any assistance you could provide would be appreciated. A draft document is currently being prepared and will be routed for review.

So far as the specific situation you mentioned is concerned, we will meet with the Henry Mountain Resource Area personnel and develop an interim plan that will meet the intent of IM No. 93-304 and appropriate BLM regulations. However, you can assume that detailed bat surveys will be required and will need to be conducted by either BLM personnel or qualified biologists acceptable to BLM prior to closure. The company may be well served to obtain the services of a qualified biologist to begin working with us to do the appropriate studies. The results of these surveys will be used as a guide to determine how best to close the mines. A partial list of biologists that would be acceptable to BLM is being compiled and will be available for your use.

The mine site that prompted your inquiry is located in T. 35 S., R. 11 E., sec. 21, NE¼. As we understand it, the mining operation at this location was last active in 1978. The operators

have proposed reclamation of the Lucky Strike portals in order to reduce their State held reclamation bond. We do not have a plan of operations or notice for this site since the operation pre-dates our surface management regulatory authority. If you would like the BLM's comments regarding the reclamation of this site, please forward the reclamation proposal to the local BLM Office in Hanksville. For your information, the Master Title Plat identifies a telephone or telegraph line right-of-way in the W ½ NE ¼ of Section 21 (copy enclosed).

We hope that this responds to your needs. Matt Obradovich is the Wildlife Biologist and Francis Rakow is the Geologist for the Resource Area. They can be reached at (801) 542-3461. Matt is the contact person for the draft inventory protocol. If you have any general questions regarding mine closures and the necessary clearances, feel free to contact Ronald Bolander in the Utah State Office at (801) 539-4065 or Terry McParland at (801) 539-4026.

Sincerely,

/s/ DAVID E. LITTLE

David E. Little
Deputy State Director
Division of Renewable Resources

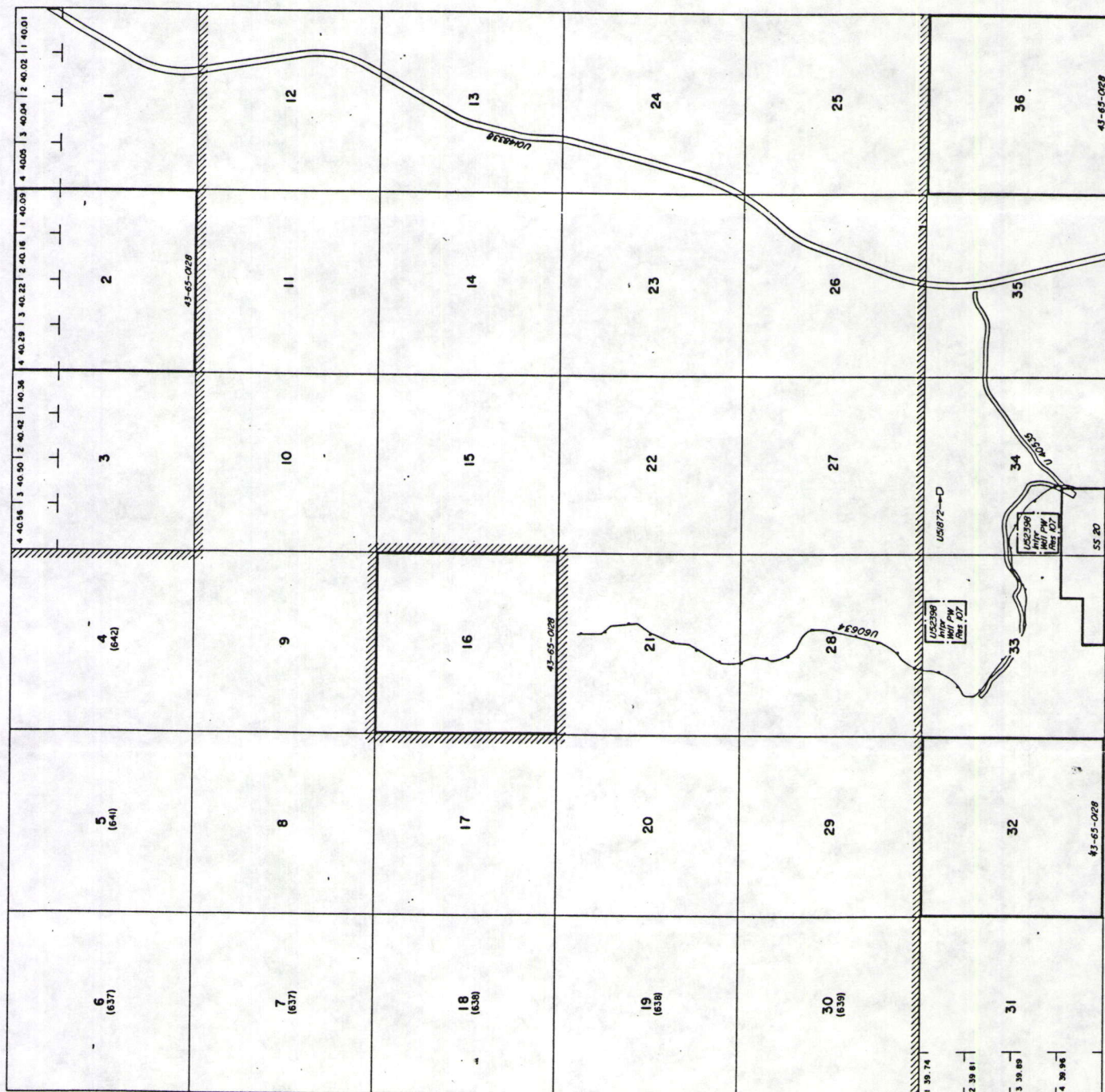
Enclosures
As Stated

bc: T. McParland (U-921)
R. Bolander (U-932)
M. Obradovich (Henry Mountain Resource Area)
All District Offices

RICHFIELD DISTRICT 050
GARFIELD COUNTY

STATUS OF PUBLIC DOMAIN
LAND AND MINERAL TITLES[illegible]

FOR ORDERS EFFECTING DISPOSAL OR USE OF UNIDENTIFIED LANDS WITHDRAWN FOR CLASSIFICATION, MINERALS, WATER AND/OR OTHER PUBLIC PURPOSES, REFER TO INDEX OF MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS.



Lat 37° 42' 49.7" N
Long 110° 36' 17.8" W

SCALE
20 10 0

[illegible]